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General Assembly

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Seventieth session
Sixth Committee

Organization of work

Note by the Secretariat

1. In order to assist the Sixth Committee in the organization of its work, the Secretariat considers it appropriate, in the light of General Assembly resolutions 1898 (XVIII) of 11 November 1963 and 32/71 of 9 December 1977 and of rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to draw the attention of the Sixth Committee to the information below.

Items allocated to the Sixth Committee

2. At its 2nd and 28th plenary meetings, on 18 September and 3 October 2015, the General Assembly allocated 20 items to the Sixth Committee. The list of those items, organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization, is contained in letters dated 18 September and 3 October 2015 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chair of the Sixth Committee, which have been circulated as documents of the Committee (A/C.6/70/1 and Add.1).

Documentation relating to the items allocated to the Sixth Committee

3. The table below lists the documents of the seventieth session of the General Assembly relating to the items allocated to the Sixth Committee. It includes references to the reports of commissions or committees and the reports that are to be submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolutions or decisions of the Assembly at preceding sessions, as well as to documents circulated under the agenda items allocated to the Sixth Committee,[1] in accordance with requests of Member States.

[1] The figure in brackets after the title of each item indicates its number on the agenda of the seventieth session. The list of documents is based on information available as at 6 October 2015.

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	Projected date of issuance
Election of the officers of the Main Committees [5]	No advance documentation
Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission [80]	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/208)	Issued
Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its forty-eighth session [81]	
Report of the Commission (A/70/17)	Issued
United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law [82]	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/__)	Mid-October
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-seventh session [83]	
Report of the Commission (A/70/10)	Issued
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization [84]	
Report of the Special Committee (A/70/33)	Issued
Report of the Secretary-General on the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* (A/70/295)	Issued
Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/70/119)	Issued
The rule of law at the national and international levels [85]	
Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities (A/70/206)	Issued
The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction [86]	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/125)	Issued
Measures to eliminate international terrorism [108]	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/211)	Issued
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly [120]	
(adoption of a provisional programme of work for the seventy-first session) (resolution 58/316)	No advance documentation

	Projected date of issuance
Programme planning [135]	
General Assembly resolutions 58/269, 62/224, 63/247, 64/229, 65/244, 66/8, 66/294, 67/236 and 69/17	Issued
Administration of justice at the United Nations [143]	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/187)	Issued
Report of the Secretary-General on an amendment to the rules of procedure of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal (A/70/189)	Issued
Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services (A/70/151)	Issued
Report of the Internal Justice Council (A/70/188)	Issued
Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country [167]	
Report of the Committee (A/70/26)	Early November
Observer status for the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States in the General Assembly [168]	
Letter dated 2 May 2011 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/66/141) (see decisions 66/527, 67/525, 68/528 and 69/527)	Issued
Observer status for the Eurasian Economic Union in the General Assembly [169]	
Letter dated 30 April 2015 from the Permanent Representatives of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/70/141)	Issued
Observer status for the Community of Democracies in the General Assembly [170]	
Letter dated 10 July 2015 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/70/142)	Issued
Observer status for the International Civil Defence Organization in the General Assembly [171]	
Letter dated 29 July 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/70/191)	Issued

	Projected date of issuance
Observer status for the Indian Ocean Rim Association in the General Assembly [172]	
Letter dated 6 August 2015 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia addressed to the Secretary-General (A/70/192)	Issued
Observer status for the International Conference of Asian Political Parties in the General Assembly [173]	
Letter dated 11 August 2015 from the representatives of Australia, Cambodia, Japan, Nepal, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/70/194)	Issued
Observer status for the Union for the Mediterranean in the General Assembly [174]	
Letter dated 18 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/70/232)	Issued

Date for concluding the work of the Committee, order and approximate dates of consideration of items

4. Rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that:

> Each Main Committee, taking into account the closing date for the session fixed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the General Committee, shall adopt its own priorities and meet as may be necessary to complete the consideration of the items referred to it. It shall at the beginning of the session adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each item.

5. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/316, on further measures for the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, the Assembly, at its 68th plenary meeting, on 10 December 2014, adopted decision 69/529 containing the provisional programme of work of the Sixth Committee for the seventieth session of the Assembly. The Bureau of the Sixth Committee has considered the provisional programme of work in the light of the allocation of new items to the Committee by the Assembly.

6. The General Assembly, at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2015, upon the recommendation of the General Committee (A/70/250, para. 16), fixed the target date of 20 November 2015 for the completion of the work of the Sixth Committee, which has also been taken into consideration in the preparation of the following work programme:

	Approximate dates of consideration
Sixth Committee (organization of work)	12 October
Measures to eliminate international terrorism [108]	12 and 13 October
The rule of law at the national and international levels [85]	14 and 15 October
Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission [80]	16 October
Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its forty-eighth session [81]	19 October
Observer status for the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States in the General Assembly [168]	19 October
Observer status for the Eurasian Economic Union in the General Assembly [169]	19 October
Observer status for the Community of Democracies in the General Assembly [170]	19 October
Observer status for the International Civil Defence Organization in the General Assembly [171]	19 October
Observer status for the Indian Ocean Rim Association in the General Assembly [172]	19 October
Observer status for the International Conference of Asian Political Parties in the General Assembly [173]	19 October
Observer status for the Union for the Mediterranean in the General Assembly [174]	19 October
The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction [86]	20 October
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization [84]	22 October
United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law [82]	23 and 26 October
Administration of justice at the United Nations [143]	26 October
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-seventh session [83]	2 to 11 November
Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country [167]	16 November
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly [120]	20 November
Programme planning [135]	20 November
Election of the officers of the Main Committees [5]	20 November
In reserve	21, 27, 28, 29 and 30 October and 12 and 13 November

Establishment of working groups and holding of consultations

7. Regarding agenda item 86, entitled "The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction", the General Assembly, by its resolution 69/124, decided that the Sixth Committee should continue its consideration of the item, without prejudice to the consideration of the topic and related issues in other forums of the United Nations, and for that purpose decided to establish, at its seventieth session, a working group of the Sixth Committee to continue to undertake a thorough discussion of the scope and application of universal jurisdiction. In that regard, three meetings, on 21, 23 and 29 October, have been suggested for that purpose.

8. Concerning agenda item 108, entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", the General Assembly, by its resolution 69/127, decided, taking into account the recommendation of the Working Group of the Sixth Committee that more time was required to achieve substantive progress on the outstanding issues, to recommend that the Sixth Committee, at the seventieth session of the Assembly, establish a working group with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as discussions on the item included in its agenda by Assembly resolution 54/110 concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. In that light, three meetings, on 26 and 30 October and 9 November, have been suggested for that purpose.

9. Concerning agenda item 80, entitled "Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission", the General Assembly, by its resolution 69/114, reiterated its decision that the consideration of the report of the Group of Legal Experts, in particular its legal aspects, should be continued during its seventieth session in the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee, and, for that purpose, invited further comments from Member States on that report, including on the question of future action. In that light, two meetings, on 16 and 28 October, have been suggested for that purpose.

10. In view of the limited conference services available to the Sixth Committee (see para. 13 below), any meetings for the working groups or for informal consultations will have to be accommodated within the overall meetings allocated to the Committee.

Deadline for the submission of draft resolutions with financial implications

11. According to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, "no resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General". It is therefore imperative that the Sixth Committee allow sufficient time for the preparation of estimates of expenditure by the Secretariat and for their consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee. Since 20 November has been fixed as the concluding date for the work of the Sixth Committee (see para. 6 above), 6 November would have to be considered the mandatory deadline for submission to the Fifth Committee of draft resolutions with financial implications, except for draft resolutions concerning items to be considered after that date. When submitting such proposals, delegations may also wish to bear in mind that, in most cases, a period of more than 48 hours is required for the Secretary-General to review the programme budget implications of proposals.

Conference resources available

12. The available conference facilities will, in principle, enable the Committee to hold no more than 10 plenary meetings per week. Morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and afternoon meetings from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

13. In order to avoid difficulties in the organization of services for the meetings of regional groups of the Committee, it is suggested that all requests for such meetings be channelled to the Meetings Management Section of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management through the Secretary of the Committee.